



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the United States has over 13 million boats, and 365,000 of those boats are on Louisiana waters; and
- WHEREAS,** the vast majority of boating incidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS,** 70% of states fatalities on the water are due to drowning; and
- WHEREAS,** a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and
- WHEREAS,** while boats are a marvelous source of recreation, unknowledgeable boat operators are a risk to other boaters when they do not know or obey the Navigation Rules of the Road, drink alcohol, or take drugs while operating a boat or choose not to wear a life jacket; and
- WHEREAS,** one precaution, wearing a life jacket, could save 80% of the lives of those who fall into the water unexpectedly; and
- WHEREAS,** boating knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment, if people are aware of the risk they are more likely to take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, family, and others; which is why we must spread the message of boating safety education in our state.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 20-26, 2006, as

### SAFE BOATING WEEK

in the state of Louisiana.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 19th day of May  
A.D., 2006*

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor of Louisiana*



*Attest By  
The Governor*

*AOA*  
*Secretary of State*